

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for instructing ~~[[each]]~~ a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request~~[[s]]~~ from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means for specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request~~[[s]]~~ from ~~[[said]]~~ one of the plurality of terminal devices;

first designating means for instructing ~~[[a]]~~ the terminal device ~~that has been~~ specified by said specifying means to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

management means for managing record information including printing date of the printing performed by ~~each of the printer plurality of terminal devices~~ according to the instruction.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of terminal devices comprises second designating means for designating a printer that is to print image information, and

said first designating means instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated by said second designating means and the terminal device storing the image information.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said first designating means instructs transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether said terminal device and printer are connected locally or via a network.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said specifying means includes a management database for managing image information as image file names, and wherein said specifying means specifying a terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in said management database.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising totalization means for totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in said management database.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, image file names, number of pages to be printed and printing date.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus for instructing ~~[[each]]~~ a specified terminal device of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network to transfer image information to a printer in response to a print request~~[[s]]~~ from one of the plurality of terminal devices, said method comprising:

a specifying step, of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request~~[[s]]~~ from one of the plurality of terminal devices;

a first designating step, of instructing ~~[[a]]~~ the terminal device ~~that has been~~ specified at said specifying step to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

a management step, of managing record information including printing date of the printing performed by ~~each of the printer~~ plurality of terminal devices according to the instruction.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising a second designating step, performed by any ~~wherein each~~ of the plurality of terminal devices ~~comprises a second designating step~~, of designating a printer that is to print image information, and

said first designating step ~~instructs~~ includes instructing transfer of the image information in dependence upon mode of connection between the printer designated ~~[[at]]~~ in said second designating step and the terminal device storing the image information.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein said first designating step ~~instructs~~ includes instructing transfer of the image information in dependence upon whether ~~said the~~ terminal device and printer are connected locally or via a network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said specifying step ~~specifies~~ includes specifying a terminal device, which is storing image information to be printed, based upon an image file name that has been registered in a management database for managing image information as image file names.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the image file name is a combination of a unique file name in the terminal device storing the image information and an identifier of this terminal device.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising a totalization step₂ of totalizing statistical information based upon attribute information in ~~said the~~ management database.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the attribute information includes information on identifiers, image file names, number of pages to be printed and printing date.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing program code of a method of controlling an information processing apparatus, comprising:

code of a specifying step, of specifying a terminal device, in which image information to be printed has been stored, in accordance with a print request[[s]] from one of a plurality of terminal devices connected via a network;

code of a designating step, of instructing [[a]] the specified terminal device to transfer the image information to a printer without the image information passing through the information processing apparatus; and

~~code of a management step, of managing record information including printing date of the printing performed by each of the printer plurality of terminal devices~~ according to the instruction.

16. - 34. (Cancelled)